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PETITION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT FOR A UNIVERSAL METRIC SIZING STANDARD FOR THE EUROPEAN MARKET

Summary

We request that the European Parliament adopt a regulation establishing a single, mandatory metric sizing standard and mandatory metric product dimension disclosures for all clothing, footwear, headwear, gloves, and related accessories sold to customers in the European Union, including items offered on global marketplaces.

Requested Action

1. Adopt an EU regulation that requires a single, harmonized metric sizing standard for garments, footwear, hats, gloves, and related accessories offered to EU customers, replacing incompatible foreign sizing labels and measures from non-metric systems.
2. Require manufacturers, importers, and marketplace sellers to disclose complete product size-related dimensions, expected stretch and shrinkage, and material composition on product tags and in an accessible online registry tied to a product's UPC code.
3. Require clear, complete and accurate recycling information on product tags and in the online registry.
4. Ensure the metric standard addresses special categories including workwear and occupational safety wear, technical weather and sports wear, medical clothing and accessories, maternity wear, plus sizes, and children's and infant clothing.

Rationale

- A single metric sizing standard will eliminate consumer confusion caused by multiple incompatible sizing systems and improve safety and fit for workwear, safety equipment, medical garments, maternity and infant clothing, and specialty apparel sold to EU consumers.
- Mandatory disclosure of precise metric dimensions, material composition, stretch and shrinkage, and recycling data will empower consumers to make informed purchases and support circular economy objectives by improving material traceability and recycling outcomes.
- An online, UPC-linked registry for registered products will provide a permanent, searchable source of metric sizing and sustainability data accessible to consumers, employers, procurement officers, and regulators.

Proposed Key Requirements for the Regulation

- Harmonized Metric Sizing Standard: Definitions and measurement procedures for body measurements and product dimensions in metric units to be used across the EU for all covered items.
- Mandatory Label Disclosures: On-product tags must include key metric measurements, expected stretch/shrink percentages, full material and composition list, and recycling instructions.
- UPC-linked Online Registry: Each registered product must have a UPC entry containing expanded metric details, composition, care, and recycling information accessible to the public.
- Scope and Enforcement: Applies to all products offered to EU customers by EU and non-EU sellers on online marketplaces and in physical stores; enforcement by national market surveillance authorities with coordinated EU-level oversight and harmonized penalties for non-compliance.
- Transitional Provisions: Reasonable phased implementation timelines for small and micro-enterprises with technical assistance and guidance from the Commission to ensure compliance without undue burden.

Expected Benefits

- Consumer Protection: Better fit, reduced returns, improved safety for protective and medical garments.

- Market Transparency: Easier product comparison for consumers and public procurers.
- Circularity: Improved recycling information will increase material recovery and support EU waste and circular economy goals.
- Trade Clarity: Harmonized metric labels reduce friction for cross-border commerce and lower the risk of incompatible sizing claims.

Request for Parliamentary Action

We ask the European Parliament to:

1. Initiate a legislative file or an own-initiative report mandating a harmonized metric sizing standard and mandatory metric disclosures as described above.
2. Instruct the relevant committees to consult stakeholders including consumer groups, industry, standardization bodies, health and safety agencies, and minority and vulnerable-user representatives to finalize measurement definitions and implementation timelines.
3. Ensure the final act includes enforcement, monitoring mechanisms, and support for small businesses to comply.

Closing

This petition advances consumer safety, market transparency, and circular economy objectives by replacing incompatible sizing systems with a single EU metric standard and by ensuring full metric disclosures both on product tags and in a UPC-linked public registry.

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